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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Syracuse University is a high-tuition, private, coeducational university located in the city of Syracuse, New York, approximately 180 miles northwest of New York City. The current enrollment is in excess of 25,000 students.

Student unrest and disruptive activities have been noted on the Syracuse campus since 1967. Although no current note has been taken of it, fairly recent information reflects a chapter of SDS on campus, and other radical student organizations are believed to exist there. In 1967 the two major targets of student activism were the Dow Chemical Co. and the CIA. The principal complaint against the Agency was its involvement in the National Student Association. In September of 1969 several small bombs exploded on or near the campus, but no repetition of bombing activity has been noted since then. In February of 1970 the ROTC became the target of student dissent, and a counter-demonstration ensued without violence. One of the demands of the counterdemonstrators was the suspension of the then student body president, David Ifshin.

David Ifshin can be given considerable credit for the beginning and the sustaining of political radicalism on the Syracuse campus. Ifshin, a Washington area product, began his political involvement while still a junior high school student and continued it through his Wheaton High School days and on to Syracuse. In 1969 at El Paso where the National Student Association had convened its 22nd annual conference, Ifshin became newsworthy when he was arrested for refusing to pay state sales tax in protest against the manner in which the city and state treated their Mexican-American minority. This act and undoubtedly other imaginative and charismatic leadership won him considerable popularity in the National Student Association, and last summer he was elected to the association's presidency. It appears that Ifshin has brought a new radicalism to the association, and he is presently an outspoken supporter of the present plan to disrupt the city of Washington next May. Further, Ifshin has recently returned from a trip to North Vietnam where he, with a group of American radicals, have sought to hammer out a peace treaty with

North Vietnamese students. In summary, Ifshin, a present resident of Potomac, Maryland, has demonstrated since junior high school a most radical political ideology and a persuasive manner in putting his points across. Since Ifshin was such a dynamic campus spokesman from the left, his graduation from Syracuse has left white radicalism on the campus somewhat in recess.

The principal problem confronting Syracuse Chancellor John E. Corbally and the university during the current academic year has been one of racial unrest. Last spring eight Negro football players boycotted football training sessions, and when they again failed to appear for fall practice, 28 August, they were suspended from the football squad by Dr. Corbally. On 24 September 1970 a 12-man committee comprised of three trustees, five professors, three students and an administrator conducted a study (including numerous interviews and hearings) of the events leading up to the boycott. The committee found that the university's athletic department was racist in nature and that the department showed unwarranted insensitivity to attempts by black athletes to question discriminatory treatment. It was the opinion of the committee that the principal cause of the black boycott was disappointment and frustration over the apparent disinclination of head coach Ben Schwartzwalder and Director of Athletics James Decker to hire a black assistant coach.

Later in September black athletes were reinstated and the situation further complicated by a counterboycott by a group of white players.

During the fall months the campus remained tense over this issue and it was feared that several Saturday football games would be disrupted. The principal threat occurred in late September during the Syracuse-Kansas University game when black students and sympathizers stoned the administration building after first demonstrating peacefully outside the Syracuse stadium. The stoning of the administration building followed a nonviolent police confrontation in the city where the Syracuse police chief and 45 armed police officers thwarted what they believed to be an attempt at looting.

With an end to the football season there has also been, at least temporarily, a lessening of the racial problems at the university. Syracuse has now hired a Negro assistant football coach.

Racial troubles and radical political activities at Syracuse can be expected to follow the national pattern. A lessening of tension seems to have set in, and in the absence of an inflammatory change in the Vietnam War or a repeat of the alleged racial insensitivity the campus can be expected to remain reasonably quiet in coming months. When the weather moderates, antiwar activities nationally will again pick up and some minor disruptions can be expected. It will probably be nonviolent.